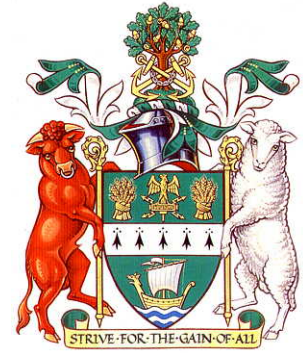


District Cllr's March Report 2023



District & Parish Elections 4th of May

The last Full Council of our 4 year term was held on 6th of March to approve the budget for 2023/24. Election fever is beginning to grip proceedings as several cllrs [10/34] have indicated that they are possibly retiring. And with the political landscape nationally, this election may prove an interesting one. The Tories have been

the leading group at WL since 2010 but their last two years has lacked luster and strong leadership. And although the retiring Council has no Labour representation, Labour may enter the fray and win seats and unseat those contesting. It could be that there is a hung Council and that any Independents elected hold the balance of power for the

next 4 years, after a great deal of horse trading.

There are 34 cllrs and all seats are up for election on Thursday 4th of May, results by Friday 5 of May just before the Coronation on the 6th. And simultaneously, Parish Councils are also up for election although only few have an election; the majority being co-opted. It's all to play for

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Newsletter Date

District Cllr's Diary

6 Full Council
Hemswell Cliff PC
7 Corringham PC
8 WL Churches Conference at Thonock Golf Course
13 Election forms due for submission
Charles Cooper Trust
14 Heapham Parish Meeting
16 Licensing/ Regulatory
20 Licensing Meeting
Hemswell PC 7pm
Hemswell Cliff PC 7:30pm,
23 CP&R
Willoughton PC
28 Overview & Scrutiny
28 Glentworth PC

Corringham Parish Council

Corringham PC continues to give concerns as the Vice Chair, Mr Jonathan Stanser, resigned in February leaving the PC with 3 members. Mr Stanser was almost

subject to the 6 month rule but it does leave the PC in a precarious position. In a matter of 18 months, it has lost 2 clerks and 6 parish cllrs. If another cllr was to re-

sign, it would leave the PC not quorate ie unable to legally function. It is the only PC that in my 13 years has given me, from time to time, concerns.

April

3 Hemswell Cliff PC
4
Corringham PC

Nuclear Fusion Energy Plant at West Burton

A new body has been set up to deliver a prototype nuclear fusion energy plant, which is expected to create thousands of jobs across the UK.

The government has established UK Industrial Fusion Solutions Ltd (UKIFS) to deliver a prototype fusion energy plant at West Burton in Nottinghamshire, not far from Gainsborough. The creation of the new delivery body for the UK's fusion programme was announced by Science Minister George Freeman this week.

The Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) prototype plant aims to provide electricity to the grid from fusion energy, which could be a near limitless, low-carbon energy source.

The Science Minister recently visited the future site of the UK's first prototype fusion energy plant at West Burton. He urged energy companies and investors to recognise the vast potential fusion energy could have for both the UK and the wider world.

Science and Innovation Minister George Freeman said: "Fusion energy now has the potential to transform our world for the better by harnessing the same process powering the sun to provide cheap, abundant, low-carbon energy across the world.

"The UK is the world-leader in fusion science and technology, and now we are moving to turn fusion from cutting edge science into a billion-pound clean energy industry to create thousands of UK jobs across the UK, grow exports and drive regeneration of this former coalfield site through a fusion innovation cluster in Nottinghamshire.

"That's why I'm delighted to announce the creation of Industrial Fusion Solutions as the vehicle for industrial development and deployment of this technology as a new clean energy source in the coming decades."

The new organisation will be a company limited by shares established to work together with industry to deliver the prototype plant by 2040.

As part of the visit, Mr Freeman also announced an immediate commitment to create the STEP Skills Centre at West Burton. He also spoke with local apprentices currently working at the UKAEA Culham campus, and key local stakeholders.

Hemswell & Harpswell held a Referendum on Thursday 2nd of March which gained the necessary majority for its Neighbourhood Development Plan & approved by WLDC at Full Council on 6th of March.

Congrats to Bryan Mander and his team for the work &

commitment which was challenged somewhat with the consultant being poorly which delayed its progress.

The document contains a fine balance between preserving its heritage and welcome sensitive development which will enhance the character of the

two communities.
Congratulations!

Extension to Anaerobic Digester at Hemswell Cliff

Proposals for a new waste food anaerobic digestion plant on Hemswell Cliff Food Enterprise Zone could bring in more than £104 million investment to the area.

A M Duigid and Son and Cliff Energy have applied to Lincolnshire County Council to build a second plant, run by Biotech4 Ltd, on their land west of an existing facility at Hemswell Biogas Ltd.



If built, the plant would create 6MW of electricity and/or 2,500cu/m of gas per hour which would be used to provide electricity, heating, bio-methane and CO2 to West Lindsey District Council's FEZ (Food Enterprise Zone), the majority of which will occupy the applicant's land holding.

"Without these measures all of the sustainable services would not be available for the FEZ and the infrastructure costs for non-renewable services... would be very high," said the documents.

The applicant has already invested £52 million in the existing site which provides similar levels of gas and electric to the National Grid as well as liquid digestate to local farms for fertiliser.

The applicant's plans for the site also include a green natural gas filling station. This application is to be determined by LCC.

Storing straw at Hemswell Cliff which goes to producing renewable energy

For several years a local farming consortium has stored straw on an industrial scale to the N West of Hemswell Cliff. It was done without planning permission, which was explored and deemed to be in order. However, after the fire last year the farming consortium has now having to seek planning permission after legal clarification.

Right from the start, the Parish Council and Community have rightly harboured fears of its location, along with a concern over the transportation of the straw, which has and continues to litter the King's highway helping to block drains and leaving the A631 and other road networks an eyesore.

As far as I am aware, no apology has been given by the farmers to the Community of Hemswell Cliff for the disruption caused by the fire, which resulted in a report highlighting serious failings.

The Community needs reassurances that the planning consent is edged with conditions to

prevent a reoccurrence of a fire incident. I would like to see a regulation that the straw when transported has a net over the straw bales to prevent it scattering along the highway. The Community should not have to put up with us any longer

Almost 1.7 million could be ineligible to vote under new ID laws

Analysis by The Telegraph shows alarming number of people without correct identification ahead of council elections in May

Flytipping

Cases of flytipping have doubled in Lincoln over the last year.

Incidents rose from 1,517 to 2,877, despite reports going down across the East Midlands as a whole. As a result, it has become the third most flytipped city in the region, trailing behind the likes of Leicester and Nottingham

Scampton within WLDC's sights

West Lindsey District Council has confirmed it will look to buy the former RAF Scampton site in a bid to bring in £300 million investment. It would continue as an operational airfield, and could bring thousands of highly-skilled jobs. Leaders called it a "landmark deal" which would preserve, protect and enhance the site by providing aviation heritage, business, aerospace, space and aviation technology and education opportunities. Work is expected to begin later this year.

The site would be purchased from the Ministry of Defence and subsequently handed over to development partner Scampton Holdings Limited. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan also has a new RAF Scampton policy calling for a holistic plan for site-wide regeneration. The Scampton Holdings Limited master plan's final 'Main Modifications' consultation stage was also recently completed with sign off of the revised Local Plan expected in early April.



WLDC leader Councillor Owen Bierley said he was proud to announce the move ahead of the 80th anniversary of Operation Chastise – the Dambusters Raid – on May 16-17. "The Council has always believed that whilst the site was deemed surplus to Ministry of Defence requirements, it should play a key role in Levelling Up opportunities across West Lindsey and Lincolnshire," he said.

"Taking what are considered to be unique features, such as the world-renowned heritage, restricted airspace and strategic location, our new partner has been able to create a commercially-viable and deliverable investment proposition and master plan."

Chairman of Scampton Holdings Limited, Peter Hewitt said the business was "passionate about unlocking the future potential of this key site".

"We bring to the table a wealth of experience and knowledge across the aerospace, defence, aviation, heritage and hospitality sectors, which through our collaborative and partnership approach to regenerating the site, will ultimately deliver thousands of highly skilled new jobs in key growth sectors in the region," he said.

"We have worked hard to put together a package to see physical regeneration commence in 2023.

"We have also brought onboard a range of commercial partners that will support the phased regeneration of the site. 2023 will finally be the year where new life is breathed into this wonderful former RAF base for the benefit of the local community and the economy in Lincolnshire and beyond."

The council said details of further consultation events will be published in due course.

Giving a new lease of life to 18c building of a chequered history

The building, which sits at 5 to 7 Market Place in [Gainsborough](#), is being turned into three new flats with commercial space on the ground floor. And as part of the scheme, a new shop front will be constructed to replicate the Grade II listed property's original Georgian and Victorian façade.

Plans to repair, restore and regenerate the buildings in the historic market town of Gainsborough are underway – thanks to West Lindsey District Council's Townscape Heritage scheme. The scheme aims to reverse the decline of our much-loved town by offering substantial grants towards the costs to renovate the buildings, bringing empty properties back into use and maximising the potential for them to be used today. It is backed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Levelling up Programme to help create a Thriving Gainsborough.

The first property which has been awarded grant funding from the Townscape Heritage Scheme is 27 – 29 Lord Street. The property is currently empty. It had solely residential use up to 1910, when shop fronts were installed on the ground floor. The property has stood witness to many changes in Gainsborough's economic fortunes.

Thanks to the combined grant funding, the frontage of the building will benefit from a range of interventions to reinstate the historical features. This includes: structural repairs, overhauling brickwork and pointing, repairs to wooden sash windows, reinstatement of the two shopfronts and much more.

The property owner, Andy Hurley, has already invested in the town at 25 Lord Street, which he has successfully transformed. After receiving planning permission to convert the property, it now houses three fantastic independent local businesses all of which draw unique new visitors into the town.

Mr Hurley purchased the block of properties prior to Covid. He said: "Our intention is to renovate the derelict properties and give them a new purpose so that they could contribute to the area.

"With the help now available from the National Lottery's THI funding and the Levelling-Up funding, it means we are able to accelerate the work at the neighbouring property, 27 – 29 Lord Street, and also complete it to an excellent standard. This will improve the street scene and in turn help neighbouring businesses, as the properties have been derelict for many years and have a negative impact on the town centre."

Mr Hurley has urged other property owners to look into the scheme as help is available to transform selected properties across Gainsborough Town Centre. He added: "The process is easy and I would encourage others to take up this fantastic opportunity, it really will make a difference to Gainsborough."

The substantial investment in historic buildings and associated community engagement activities seeks to improve the historic value and appearance of properties within targeted parts of the Town Centre Conservation Area of Gainsborough.

Chair of the Leisure, Culture, Events & Tourism Group at the Council, Cllr Paul Howitt-Cowan, welcomed the news of the first grant allocations. He said: "Restoring the Historic Heart of Gainsborough is part of the Council's wider Invest Gainsborough vision to increase footfall to the area, build a sense of place and restore buildings back to their attractive historic look. It also encourages local communities to find out more about the town's heritage. I am delighted to see the plans for the THI are progressing and I cannot wait to see the finished buildings once they are complete."

Jonathan Lee, experienced Townscape Heritage Officer at the Council is leading on the project. He is calling on all property owners in the designated area to come forward and find out more about the scheme. He said: "The Townscape Heritage Team is thrilled that the scheme is off to a great start. We hope that this news will encourage other property owners in the town centre to come forward and join in with the initiative to help our 'Thriving Gainsborough 2024'.

Row erupts over plans for detention centre at RAF Scampton that 'may scupper £300m re-vamp project'

Councillors in Lincolnshire are gearing up for a battle with Government over plans to house migrants at RAF Scampton, while politicians and campaigners in Essex have protested against MDP Wethersfield being used to house asylum seekers[Wetherfield has a problem with asbestos and could disqualify it as an asylum site]

Government plans to detain migrants in a former RAF base for the Red Arrows and the Dambusters would risk scuppering a £300m regeneration deal, councillors have warned.

Tory councillor Roger Patterson, from West Lindsey District Council in Lincolnshire, said he feared a redevelopment deal for RAF Scampton could be "destroyed" by reported proposals to keep asylum seekers at the location. He accused the Government of "a lack of respect" after the council was not officially informed of any migrant accommodation plan.

On Monday, [6th March] the council announced it had struck a £300m deal with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to buy the 800-acre site, which closed as a base in September 2022, and transform it with a hotel, new homes, shops, restaurants, and bars.

The following day, it was reported RAF Scampton, still home to current and former Armed Forces personnel, was earmarked as a detention centre for migrants arriving on small boats.

One local politician attacked the reported accommodation plan which would see "the home of the Dambusters used indefinitely to detain people" as a battle with central government looms.

Under new Government legislation to crackdown on illegal migration, introduced by Home Secretary Suella Braverman on Tuesday, migrants who cross the Channel on boats would be barred from making asylum claims and detained for at least 28 days before being deported to their home country or another, such as Rwanda, which was deemed safe.

Meanwhile, Braintree District Council in Essex confirmed that it was approached on Tuesday night by the Department for Levelling Up about using MoD facility MDP Wethersfield to house asylum seekers, with local campaigners and councillors voicing objections.

Cllr Owen Bierley, Leader of Conservative-led West Lindsey District Council, said the notion of migrants being housed at RAF Scampton was "surprising" and as far as he was aware the Government had not contacted the council directly about the proposals.

"I think it leaves many people feeling uncomfortable. In terms of the redevelopment we anticipated moving forward very quickly with the developers," he said.

"The risk is that speculation, unless there is a solution to it, could jeopardise those plans. The asylum seekers themselves require support because many of them have been through considerable trauma to get here. "The isolation of a former RAF base, I don't think, is a suitable location." People still living on the site, some of whom have been there for years, would also find the speculation "incredibly unsettling", he added.

It is understood that the site may contain 1, 500 asylum seekers. The Lincolnite reported that Serco was recruiting staff but we now learn that this is now on hold. Watch this Space!

140,000 illegal cigarettes seized during multi-agency raids in Gainsborough

A total of 140,000 illegal cigarettes have been seized following raids on three stores and a residential property in Gainsborough.

Searches of the premises were carried out as part of a pre-planned, intelligence-led, multi-agency operation, involving officers from West Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire County Council's Trading Standards and Lincolnshire Police.

Kim Enderby, senior licensing and community safety officer for West Lindsey District Council, said the raids were carried out on Tuesday, 28th February 2023.

He said: "All agencies involved had received intelligence that these stores were involved in the sale of illicit cigarettes. The three stores were raided simultaneously, whilst local police officers from Gainsborough also executed a search warrant at the residential address.

"Seizures of illegal cigarettes were made from all three of the retail stores with a further quantity being seized from the house. Over 140,000 illegal cigarettes were seized, which will have a real impact on the individuals behind this activity. Further investigations are ongoing by all the organisations involved."

Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee, Cllr Owen Bierley, said: "The Council's aim is to make the district a safe and vibrant place to live, work and socialise. One of the ways to support legitimate businesses is by targeting those involved in criminal activity.

"Shops selling dangerous and illegal products contribute nothing to the local community or economy and this sort of activity will be met head on. Agencies working together, sharing information, pooling resources and skills, means we can make the maximum impact on days like this."

Sergeant Amy Briggshaw from Lincolnshire Police said: "During this operation we seized a large quantity of these goods, preventing them from hitting the streets in West Lindsey.

"All cigarettes are harmful, but some illegal and illicit goods, such as these made up of poor-quality ingredients, can actually be more damaging to a person's health than an ordinary cigarette – they are not produced by licensed companies and contain unknown ingredients and quantities of chemicals. The sale of these goods is generating large incomes for criminal gangs and the loss of tax revenue means less money spent on your schools or hospitals.

"If you smoke, we urge you to purchase cigarettes and tobacco from reputable shops, where you know they have been produced by a licensed company."

Andy Wright, Principal Trading Standards Officer at Lincolnshire County Council, explained seizures such as this are always investigated by the Trading Standards Service.

West Lindsey District Council: 2.99% increase in the precept 2023/24

- Band A: £151.83 – £156.36 (£4.53)
- Band B: £177.13 – £182.42 (£5.29)
- Band C: £202.44 – £208.48 (£6.04)
- Band D: £227.74 – £234.54 (£6.80)
- Band E: £278.35 – £286.66 (£8.31)
- Band F: £328.96 – £338.78 (£9.82)
- Band G: £379.57 – £390.90 (£11.33)
- Band H: £455.48 – £469.08 (£13.60)

WLDC Precept up by a modest 2.99% on band D



West Lindsey District Council have voted to approve a 2.99% rise in council tax as part of their budget for 2023/24.

A full council meeting on Monday 6 OF March saw councillors vote in favour of the measure which would require residents in Band D properties to pay an **extra £6.80 per year or 13p per week.**

The increase is the maximum amount allowed under the government's referendum

limit of up to 3 per cent or £5.

Corporate Services Director Emma Foy said the foundation of the budget was made up of expert planning and financial management alongside consultation with local people. She added:

“Our mission is to ensure our focus remains on delivering the priorities of local people to ensure West Lindsey continues to be a resilient and diverse rural district that embraces sustainable growth whilst retaining the quality, heritage and character for the benefit of all, and this budget reflects this.

“This robust budget allows us to invest in a wide range of areas, including enhancing and protecting the local environment, helping to develop and sustain local businesses, provide facilities for local residents – all of which ensures we as a council continue to offer value for money services.”

Discover Lincolnshire weekend - 25th & 26th March 2023

Discover Lincolnshire weekend - 25th & 26th March 2023

marks Discover Lincolnshire Weekend, the perfect opportunity to showcase your business to residents and visitors.

[Destination Lincolnshire](#) will be leading the countywide campaign to shine a light on everything Lincolnshire has to offer and encourage businesses to get involved in the campaign.

If you're a Lincolnshire attraction, retailer or food and drink establishment you can get involved by providing details of what you're planning for the weekend, usually one of two offers:

- Offer visitors free entry to your attraction for the weekend.
- A special offer, activity, or discount to encourage people to get out over the weekend and explore the best of Lincolnshire. *it this placeholder text.*

Register your offer by emailing the team at

hello@visitlincoln.com

A Great Way to Welcome the Spring!